Recombination

http://www.recombination.org.uk/

Unicon 21
Harmuni 3
2007 British Roleplaying Convention

A science fiction, fantasy, filk, and roleplaying convention to be held at

New Hall, Cambridge
10th-12th August 2007

Guests of Honour
Jo Walton, Chris Pramas, Franklin Gunkelmann

Progress Report 1

If you would like a large-print copy of this Progress Report, email:

info@recombination.org.uk

or write to:

155 Gilbert Road,
Cambridge CB4 3PA

What is Recombination?

Recombination is a fan-run convention with a broad theme of role-playing, science fiction, fantasy and filk. Strictly speaking, Recombination is three conventions in one, but more of that later. The con will run from Friday 10th - Sunday 12th August 2007, and we're planning a relaxed and interesting weekend filled with plenty of panel discussions, talks, games and music. We will have a dealers' room and a real ale bar and lots of space for gaming and socialising.

Who's running this show?

Your humble committee is:

Clare Boothby	Chairman
Nicholas Caldwell	Venue Liaison
Duncan MacGregor	Membership/Treasurer
Mark Waller	Secretary

plus several helpers in charge of such important areas as publications, beer and being wise. Nicholas was on the committee of the successful 2005 BRS con Consternation and between us we've run SF societies and helped out at all manner of cons.

Harmuni, the filk stream, has its own committee:

Emily Raftery	Chairwoman
Gwen Knighton	Tablewoman
Mich Sampson	Freewoman

Three cons in one

Recombination follows in the footsteps of three well-established small cons. It will be the 2007 British Roleplaying Society convention, a gaming convention in the tradition of Baroquon, Conjuration, Consternation, etc. It will also be Unicon 21, marking the revival of this series of university-based SF and fantasy conventions. We will also host Harmuni 3, a filk convention and child of recent Unicons.

Location

Our venue is New Hall, Cambridge, one of the younger colleges of the University, slightly removed from the hubbub of the city centre. New Hall has hosted a number of Unicons and has long been the venue of choice for BRScons, hosting Baroquon, Rococococon, Conjuration, and Consternation, among others, so we've established a good working relationship with New Hall over the years.

We will be able to offer a range of rooms in the college at very reasonable prices; single rooms sharing bathrooms will cost £40.50 per night, with breakfast; twin and en-suite rooms will also be available.(Please don't try booking yet; forms will be sent out to all members nearer the date).

New Hall has good on-site parking, its own bar, and a variety of meeting rooms suitable for sf and gaming panels, Live-Action Role Playing, tabletop gaming, dealers, and organised convention events.

What is filk?

Filk has been described as "the folk music of the science fiction/fantasy fan community," (Kay Shapero) or "a mixture of song parodies and original music, humorous and serious, about subjects like science fiction, fantasy, computers, cats, politics, the space program, books, movies, TV shows, love, war, death..." (Nick Smith). For a more detailed description, check out Kay Shapero's Filk FAQ (**http://www.kayshapero.net/filkfaq.htm**) or the directory of definitions on the Interfilk website (**http://www.interfilk.org/interfilk/filk.htm**).

Real Ale

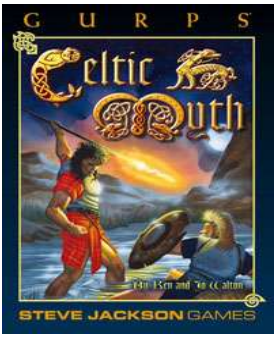
As well as New Hall's own bar, we will have a real ale bar, stocked from local company Milton Brewery. Founded in 1999, it describes itself as “a traditional English Ale brewery, albeit lurking in the cunning disguise of a 1950s industrial unit”.

The full selection of beers will be decided closer to the time, but we plan to have the Minotaur mild and Sparta pale bitter that were most popular at Consternation. We also plan to have real cider in the form of Weston's Old Rosie, but be careful: the steamroller on the label is there as a warning to the unwary! There will also be some food and non-alcoholic drinks available in the real ale bar, and space for people to bring small “beer and pretzels” games into the real ale bar and play them there.

Of course, this will need volunteers, so we'll be after people to work as beer gophers in return for cheap beer and the opportunity to wear a stylish stripy apron. Email the committee if you'd like to help out.

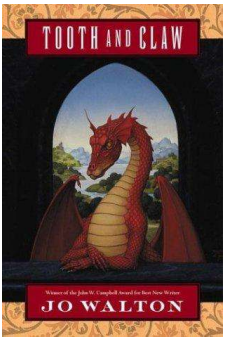
Guests of Honour

Jo Walton



Jo Walton won the John W. Campbell Award for best new writer in 2002 and the World Fantasy Award in 2004. She comes from Wales, but lives in Montreal where the food and books are more varied.

With Ken Walton she co-wrote the *Celtic Myth* sourcebook for GURPS and Warhammer *Realms of Sorcery*, as well as writing for *Arcane* magazine and the *Into the DC* storytelling card games.



Jo's latest novel is the World Fantasy Award winning *Tooth and Claw*, a sentimental Victorian novel about dragons who eat each other. Her earlier works are *The Prize in the Game* and the diptych *The King's Peace* and *The King's Name*. Her alternate history mystery novel *Farthing* will be appearing from Tor in August 2006. She has just finished an odd little fantasy novel called *Lifelode* which is presently in limbo.

She is presently working on a direct sequel to *Tooth and Claw* tentatively entitled *Those Who Favor Fire*; an even more direct sequel to *Farthing* called *Ha'Penny*; a version of *Mansfield Park* set on Mars; and a young adult fantasy about a princess defending a castle from dragons. She treats all these projects, as always, with the seriousness they deserve.

Chris Pramas

Founder of Green Ronin, Chris Pramas began his career in the game industry as a freelance writer in 1994. He made his name working on such game lines as Warhammer Fantasy Roleplay (as a coauthor of *The Dying of the Light*), Feng Shui, and Underground. He started his own company (Ronin Publishing), but later joined Wizards of the Coast as a RPG designer.

He spent four years at Wizards where he eventually became Creative Director for Miniatures R&D. While still at Wizards, he founded Green Ronin Publishing as a side venture and went full-time with Green Ronin on his departure from Wizards. Since then, he was worked as author, developer and producer for Green Ronin on many projects. He has won three Origins Awards and two ENnie Awards for his work. He is best known as the author of the *AD&D Guide to Hell*, *Dragon Fist*, *Death in Freeport* (and its sequels), and most recently as the designer of the acclaimed second edition of Warhammer Fantasy Roleplay (published by Black Industries).

Franklin Gunkelmann

Franklin is an extraordinarily funny and talented musician, always in the thick of it MC-ing and committee-ing at the German filk conventions, and has recently been inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame. We're delighted to have his warm, expressive voice and beautiful piano playing in the limelight at Harmuni in 2007.

Programme

We plan to run all the staple events of a BRScon, Unicon and Harmuni. Expect guest of honour speeches and interviews, panel discussions on a variety of gaming, SF and fantasy topics, a lively series of concerts and singalongs, a quiz and an auction, plus of course a wide range of tabletop, live action and board games. We have some less conventional plans too; current mad schemes involve late-night storytelling and live-action nethack.

If you'd like to suggest an event or panel discussion topic, get in touch with the committee at **info@recombination.org.uk** . The filk programming is being organised by the Harmuni committee; they can be reached at **harmuni3@yahoo.com** .

Volunteering/programme ideas

Would you like to:

- GM a game
- suggest a discussion panel topic
- appear on a panel
- run or take part in some other event
- sell beer
- welcome new arrivals at the front desk
- suggest a cool idea we haven't thought of
- run around madly solving last-minute problems and fetching coffee or otherwise earning the undying gratitude of the committee?

If so, email us at **info@recombination.org.uk** to let us know. No previous experience required, and all offers of help welcome, no matter how small.

Membership list as of 13th July 2006

A66	Michael Abbott
A47	Mark Baker
A59	Michael Bernardi
A14	Paul Blackwell
A3	Clare Boothby
A1	Bridget Bradshaw
A4	Simon Bradshaw
A15	Denzil J. Brown
A8	Roger Burton West
A2	Nicholas Caldwell
A64	Peter Cohen
A32	Cardinal Cox
A67	John Coxon
A29	Rafe Culpin
A6	John Dallman
A10	David Damerell
A61	Dr. Bob
A60	Owen Dunn
A38	Sue Edwards
A12	Madeleine Eid
A19	Tim Ellis
A65	Mike Figg
A31	Gwen Funnell
A22	Karen Gilman
A21	Steve Gilman
A49	James Hamilton
A16	David A. Harvey
A33	Rick Hewett
A27	Ian Jackson
A50	Rhodri James
A24	Kari
A37	Keris
A13	Paul King
A52	Andy Leighton
A26	Duncan MacGregor
A55	Marisa
A28	Mark
A5	Phil Masters
A17	Rosanna McKay
A7	Rory McLean
A44	Mich Sampson
A46	Miki
A34	Ian Miller
A48	Michele Minett
A56	Mongoose
A54	Naath
A23	Phil Nanson
A69	Emmet O'Brien
G71	Chris Pramas
A35	Emily Raftery
A9	Michael Roe
A11	Marcus Rowland
A39	SIB
A51	Owen Smith
A72	Songbird
A62	Graham Taylor
A18	Neil Taylor
A36	The Magician
A20	Sheila Thomas
A58	Valerie
A45	Marilisa Valtazanou
A25	Mark Waller
G68	Jo Walton
A70	Sasha Walton
A30	Peter Wareham
A43	Karen Westhead
A40	Kathy Westhead
A41	Mike Westhead
A42	Peter Westhead
A53	Peter Wilkinson
A57	Tom Womack
A63	Matthew Woodcraft